

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 NEA-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
CEA-01 IO-13 H-01 L-03 PA-01 HA-05 /122 W
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PASS TREASURYDEP FOR ESCOUBE

EO 11652:NA
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, SHUM, TH
SUBJECT: THAILAND: FOURTH POWER TRANSMISSION PROJECT

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE WASHINGTON WITH AS MUCH TIME AS
POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF ADB PROJECTS,
WE ARE SUBMITTING INFORMATION ON THE FOURTH POWER TRANS-
MISSION PROJECT (THAILAND) WHICH IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED
FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN OCTOBER:

1. THE PROJECT FORMS PART OF THE FIVE-YEAR INVESTMENT
PROGRAM FOR FY 1977-81 OF THE ELECTRICITY GENERATING
AUTHORITY OF THAILAND (EGAT). TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT
IS DOLS 64.3 MILLION, OF WHICH THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE
PORTION FOR BANK FINANCING AMOUNTS TO DOLS 36.5 MILLION.
THE PROJECT PROVIDES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TWO KEY TRANS-
MISSION LINES AND ASSOCIATED POWER SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT.
PROJECT COMPONENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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- A. NORTHERN INTERTIE LINE:
 - A 230 KV DOUBLE CIRCUIT TRANSMISSION LINE TO BE CON-
STRUCTED BETWEEN PHITSANULOK AND KHON KAEN, A DISTANCE
OF APPROXIMATELY 330 KMS.
- B. KHON KAEN-SI SA KET TRANSMISSION LINE:

- A 115 KV DOUBLE CIRCUIT TRANSMISSION LINE TO TRANSMIT POWER FROM KHON KAEN TO LOAD CENTRES AT KALASIN, ROI ET, YASOTHIN AND SI SA KET.

- C. SUB-STATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT:
 - INSTALLATION OF TRANSMISSION SUB-STATIONS FOR THE ABOVE TRANSMISSION LINES TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED COMMUNICATION AND POWER SYSTEMS AUXILLIARY EQUIPMENT, CONSTRUCTION TOOLS AND VEHICLES.

2. THE PROJECT PROPOSED FOR BANK FINANCING IS EFFECTIVELY AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF THE ACCELERATED RURAL ELECTRIFICATION (ARE) PROGRAM IN NORTHEASTERN THAILAND SINCE THE PROJECT TRANSMISSION LINES WILL TRANSMIT POWER FROM THE HYDROELECTRIC AND LIGNITE THERMAL GENERATION SOURCES OF NORTHERN THAILAND TO NEW RURAL POWER MARKETS CREATED BY THE ARE PROGRAM IN THE NORTHEAST.

3. SOCIAL BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT ARE CONSIDERABLE, SINCE THE PROJECT IS PROVIDING POWER ENTIRELY TO THE RURAL PROVINCES OF THE NORTHEAST, WHICH INCLUDES SOME OF THE MOST BACKWARD AND UNSTABLE AREAS IN THAILAND. THE POPULATION OF THE NORTHEASTERN REGION IS APPROXIMATELY 18 MILLION. POWER IS PRESENTLY BEING SOLD IN THE PROVINCES OF THAILAND BY THE PROVINCIAL ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY (PEA) AT AN AVERAGE COST PER KILOWATT HOUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH IS LESS THAN THE GENERATION COST. THIS IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND'S POLICY OF UPLIFTING THE SOCIAL AREAS.

4. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM WILL PROGRESSIVELY ENHANCE THE PER CAPITA INCOME OF THESE AREAS. IN VIEW OF THE FAIRLY RECENT EMPHASIS ON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IN THAILAND HOWEVER, (THE FIRST ARE FIVE-YEAR PLAN RUNS ONLY FROM 1977-1981) AND ALTHOUGH BENCHMARK DATA WAS ESTABLISHED PRIOR TO COMMENCING IMPLEMENTATION, SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS NOT YET BEEN ACHIEVED TO QUANTIFY ACCURATELY THE BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON PER CAPITA INCOME. EDMOND

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